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The chapters on negotiations during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century with the states of northern Africa show the advantages of naval diplomacy in striking manner. The Barbary States of that period were not to be influenced simply by tactful phrasing of the demand when the United States was offering as ransom three thousand dollars per man to redeem those who had been taken by Mediterranean pirates. "That the United States led all other nations in resisting the exactions of the Barbary corsairs, and that American naval officers, in the use of both warlike and peaceful means, were important factors in establishing the policy of resistance, will always be a source of gratification to patriotic Americans" (p. 121). As an evidence of the fairness of some of the treaties negotiated at this time and under such circumstances, it may be said they are still binding.

The early relations with Turkey were usually in the hands of naval officers, often because the officers were in the neighborhood and knew the conditions. Commodore Porter, who had resigned from the navy, was appointed the first permanent diplomatic representative of the United States to Turkey.

As trade usually preceded any other relations with remote regions, the agent for protecting the trade—the navy—was naturally the first representative of the government to appear in these regions. Thus the representatives of the United States came to China and the navy, especially under Commodore Kearny, prepared the way for the negotiations resulting in the treaty of 1844.

The opening of Japan and the diplomacy of Commodore Perry is vividly described. The treaty opening Korea to the commerce of the United States was concluded after many tribulations by Commodore Shufeldt as commissioner plenipotentiary, and remained in force till Korea became a part of Japan.

Many of the islands of the Pacific and portions of Western Africa have been the field of negotiations of the "sailor diplomats".

The book affords a view of events in the foreign relations of the United States between the years 1778 and 1883 of which the significance might easily escape notice except in striking instances such as the negotiations of Commodore Perry with Japan. There would naturally be differences of opinion as to the value of the services rendered by the naval officers mentioned by Dr. Paullin. The narrative style makes the book easy reading. The index furnishes convenient references. Numerous foot-notes show the range of the author's preparation for his work.

GEORGE G. WILSON.

Lee the American. By GAMALIEL BRADFORD, JR. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1912. Pp. xiv, 324.)

THIS book, from a scion of the oldest family in New England, is a singular tribute to the character of General Lee and its influence upon American life and history. Mr. Bradford closes his studies with the

following remark: "I have loved him, and I may say that his influence upon my own life, though I came to him late, has been as deep and as inspiring as any I have ever known." And how many others now living, both in the South and in the North, could say the same!

The author's purpose is to give a series of studies of Lee, of his motives and purposes, his "psychography" as it is explained in an interesting appendix. We have, therefore, no biography, but a succession of illuminating pictures. And like Mr. Thomas Nelson Page, the Massachusetts admirer finds no dark places, no serious faults or errors in the character or career of the great general, and thus adds to the "Lee legend" while lamenting this tendency in others.

Lee has been unfortunate thus far in finding no biographer—for there is no life of Lee worthy of his great character and tragic career; this is doubtless due to the difficulty of such a task, the necessity of a combination on the part of the author of both military and historical training and of rare self-control in the use of evidence.

The most interesting chapters of the book—most of which appeared last year in the *Atlantic Monthly*—are those which treat of Lee's relations with Jefferson Davis, with Stonewall Jackson, and with the Confederate government. In these the point is made again and again that the general was so unlike other great men in similar positions that his career becomes unique in history. He could "manage" Jefferson Davis and tame Stonewall Jackson; he could fire the hearts of soldiers and participate heartily in camp-fire prayer-meetings; he maintained discipline and yet was never harsh; and at the head of a great army himself he looked with satisfaction upon his son as a private in an artillery company. Many, many unique traits are brought out in these studies, which the reader must peruse for himself if he loves that which is noble in human conduct.

At one point this fascinating book is not quite satisfying: the nature of the decision in April, 1861, when, in spite of the most alluring prospects, Lee resigned from the United States Army and took up the cause of the South. The author assumes that Lee was, like so many others in Virginia, indoctrinated with states'-rights ideas. The fact is that Lee's father was never a states'-rights man, notwithstanding the letter to Madison quoted by Bradford. "Light Horse" Harry Lee suffered at the hands of a Jeffersonian mob in Baltimore in 1813; Lee's mother was the daughter of a genuine aristocrat of Tidewater Virginia who paid slight attention to the Jeffersonian or states'-rights view of national politics; and Lee himself had been reared in the Washington tradition of Federalist thinking and dislike of Virginian politics. If there was a Southerner who was wholly out of the range of the states'-rights appeal in 1860-1861 it was Robert E. Lee. He did not believe in slavery as an institution, as Mr. Bradford brings out strongly, and he repudiated secession as sheer revolution.

Lee's decision, the "great decision" as the author states it, remains

an enigma, for Mr. Charles Francis Adams, the other authoritative student of the subject, has not found a better answer than has Mr. Bradford, though no one inclines as the years go by to renew the old charge of ambition and treason.

WILLIAM E. DODD.

History of Reconstruction in Louisiana (through 1868). By JOHN ROSE FICKLEN. [Johns Hopkins University Studies in History and Political Science, series XXVIII., no. 1.] (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1910. Pp. ix, 234.)

THE period of reconstruction has long been regarded by students as one of the most complicated, if not the most complicated period in our history; difficult in that so many adverse elements enter—elements as varied as the activities and motives of humanity. Whether on account of the inherent problems to be dealt with or whether our students are slow in taking up the threads of this complex period, the fact remains that it is only during the last decade that any studies of importance have been issued dealing with this particular phase of our history. A number of successful books, painstaking in detail, have been published, but hardly one with better claim of merit than that of Professor Ficklen's.

It is one of the distressing facts of life, met with almost daily, that those best fitted to begin and end a thing are cut down in the prime of their powers—and so it was with Professor Ficklen, whose life was taken before he had finished his labors.

In this connection, however, we have only applause for the work of Professor Pierce Butler, who served as editor in bringing out the volume. It was a work of love on his part to complete what his master had proposed.

Very rightly, of course, Professor Ficklen began his study with an excellent chapter devoted to the ante-bellum history of Louisiana. However, in our view, he did not go quite far enough, beginning his discussion with the period prior to the admission of Texas. He shows indeed the complexity of elements making up the political life of Louisiana, although he devotes no space to the Louisiana of the purchase nor to the formative period prior to the forties. The threads of Louisiana's political life were, from the very first, much tangled, and this undoubtedly accounts in large part for the perturbed course leading up to the Civil War, and through it and reconstruction; and even to this day we find some anomalous conditions in that commonwealth.

He handles Butler's administration in New Orleans without gloves, as it deserves to be. His high-handed course there, in many cases, outraged not only all the canons of accepted belligerency, but those of the finer canons in the code of decency as well. Quite a little new information has been brought to light through the professor's researches.

As for Banks, he bears very much better the light, and indeed, whatever his failings and weaknesses, he showed himself to have a much